Columbia College

DR. R. WRIGHT SPEARS
PRESIDENT

Fine Arts Series

Presents

THE LITTLE SINGERS OF PARIS

MSGR. FERNAND MAILLET, DIRECTOR

COLUMBIA COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1959

8:00 P.M.

Program

Factus est repente . . . . . G. AICHINGER (XVI Century)

The Little Singers of Paris were founded in 1907 for the express purpose of reviving the prestige of true religious music, especially that of the Renaissance. What could be more appropriate to open their program than a dazzling example of the German School of the Sixteenth Century? Intended for Pentecost, this motet is conceived in a flashing counterpoint admirably evocative of the Holy Ghost's whirlwind possession of the souls of the assembled Apostles.

Introît to the Funeral Mass for the Kings of France
. . . . F. DU CAURROY (XVII Century)

Recently rediscovered in an old music collection, this mass was sung as part of the interment rites of a number of French kings. The introit, based on a Gregorian theme, offers the Church's plea to God for the eternal repose of the dead Monarch.

O Magnum Mysterium . . . . . FRANCIS POULENC

One of our most admirable contemporary composers also happens to be a great friend of the Little Singers. He has composed for them a number of motets, inspired by the fervor of the Renaissance yet spiked with the precision and audacity of modern technique. Here is a Christmas song, notable for its admirable dissonances, as it celebrates the astonishing mystery of the infant Jesus lying on manger straw and warmed by the breath of symbolic animals!

Elegy (Extract from the Cantata for Two Cities). . DARIUS MILHAUD
on a poem by PAUL CLAUDEL

The famous poet and composer have presented the Little Singers with three cantatas. This extract is a moving elegy by a survivor wandering in the midst of the smoking ruins of Babylon, after it has been destroyed by the fire of God's wrath and is no longer the pride and terror of the world.

O Little Town of Bethlehem . . . . . English Christmas Carol

The Little Singers are proud to have included in their repertory many Christmas carols from various lands, and prouder still to be able to sing them in their original language. This familiar example has lost none of its charm and freshness.

Il est né le Divin Enfant. . . . . JOSEPH NOYON

One of the most popular of French Christmas carols, in a brilliant vocal orchestration.

PART TWO

FRENCH SONGS

Il est bel et bon . . . . . PASSEREAU (XVI Century)
Music of the French Renaissance. In a diverting and joyous counterpoint we are offered the friendly chitchat of several Sixteenth Century gossips, mutually congratulating one another on the fact that their husbands not only do not beat them, but actually help with the housework and farmyard chores.

Le chant des oiseaux . . . . . CLEMENT JANNEQUIN (XVI Century)
A lively fantasy, employing amusing onomatopoetic effects to create a brilliant concert by a whole aviary of birds.

Dodo l'enfant do . . . . . GEORGES RENARD
A favorite lullaby with French mothers when putting their babies to sleep.

Sur le pont d'Avignon . . . . . M. PERISSAS
Specially composed for the Little Singers, this sparkling fantasy is a variation on the well-known song about all those who come to dance on the famous bridge at Avignon. Tripping the light fantastic are handsome gentlemen, beautiful ladies, soldiers, lackeys and even old village crones.

L'histoire de Marlborough (4 to 8 voices) . . . VINCENT D'INDY
An old favorite with French soldiers, based on an English theme. Heavily ironic, it relates the misfortunes of the Duke of Marlborough, an English general who was not exactly loved by France. He goes off to war; then his wife becomes worried, climbs the tower and spies the messenger coming with bad news. After that, there isn't much left but to give a military parade for the hero lost in battle. This song is as well-known to French children as Yankee Doodle is to young Americans. As for its political significance, well, that would be equivalent to present-day Uncle Sam getting excited about the English because of the War of 1775!

SONGS OF THE WORLD

Il trescone (The Herdsman's Song) . . . . . Anonymous
A lovely Italian song which the Little Singers "picked up" in the region of Bologna.

Tece voda Tece . . . . . Czechoslovakian Lullaby
From their 1933 trip to Czechoslovakia, the Little Singers brought back this exquisite lullaby: the water flows and flows...

Röslein (The Red Rose) . . . . . FRANZ SCHUBERT
A famous and charming melody, sung in the original German.

Jarabe Tapatio . . . . . Mexican Dance
This is a happy souvenir brought back by the Little Singers from a trip to Mexico.

The Last Rose of Summer . . . . . Irish Folk Song
Another souvenir, this time a wistful one in memory of a Dublin sojourn.

MARSHALS

DIAN SHAYLOR - Head Marshal

CECELIA COLVERT

LIA MANOS

DE ANN TEASTER

JUDY HASELWOOD

SUZY BRUNER

PENNY HENDERSON

PAT CHAFFIN

FRANCES HERBERT

MARILYN LEWIS

ALKAHEST CELEBRITY BUREAU (Representatives for The Little Singers)

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